UN

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/C.2/SR.556
1 April 1992

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Thirty-first session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 556th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 31 March 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MIKULKA (Czechoslovakia)

CONTENTS

The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.92-60982/9297a

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

THE ELABORATION OF DRAFT PRINCIPLES RELEVANT TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE, WITH THE AIM OF FINALIZING THE DRAFT SET OF PRINCIPLES (agenda item 3) (continued) (A/AC.105/484 and 513; A/46/20; A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.11)

1. Mr. MALPEDE (Argentina) said that the Subcommittee now had a perfect opportunity to finalize the draft set of principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. His delegation considered that the working paper contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.11 submitted by Canada and Germany would serve as an excellent basis for a consensus on draft principles 1A, 4 and 12. It also supported the draft preamble proposed for inclusion in the set of principles as a compromise solution.

2. Some of the doubts that certain delegations had expressed about the definition contained in principle 1A and its relationship with the safety measures provided for in principle 4 might be dispelled if those two principles were interpreted in the light of article II, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. In his delegation's opinion, that article should be applied for the purpose of principle 4 or, in other words, prior to launching. The determination whether the State launching or promoting the launching or the State from whose territory or installations the space object was launched should carry out the safety assessment should be undertaken jointly.

3. He noted that the purpose of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space was to determine "jurisdiction" and "control", while that of principle 4 was to determine which State would carry out the assessment and approve the launching; that logic was based on principles of international law such as those of cooperating and negotiating in good faith, preventing damage and holding consultations. Similarly, the aim of the draft principles was to protect human life and the environment of the Earth and of outer space.

4. In conclusion, his delegation agreed with those which had said that the period for the review of the effectiveness of the principles should be shortened to ensure that the principles kept pace with new conditions created by technological advances. The Subcommittee could not run the risk of making it impossible to implement principles that were out of date.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.